

**FOR: CREATION OF THE STATE CHILD PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME, GREETINGS:

**WHEREAS,** every Hoosier child should be given the chance to grow up safe and healthy, and

**WHEREAS,** it is our solemn responsibility to keep our children safe;

**WHEREAS,** more than 60,000 reports of potential child abuse or neglect are received by the Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Family and Children annually; and

**WHEREAS,** about 23,000 children each year are determined to be seriously endangered; and

**WHEREAS,** Indiana employs a dedicated corps of family case managers; and

**WHEREAS,** Indiana's child protection workforce would benefit from consultation with highly trained individuals with specific expertise for advice and counsel on the most difficult circumstances of seriously endangered children; and

**WHEREAS,** it is desirable to have representatives from other sectors of our society on a state child protection task force.

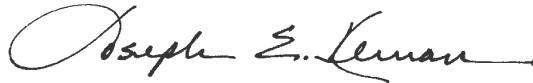
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph E. Kernan,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The State Child Protection Task Force is established.
2. The Task Force shall be composed of no more than 12 persons knowledgeable in the care and custody of children and in juvenile law.
3. The Task Force shall be called upon to investigate and consult on the circumstances of individual seriously endangered children to assist Family and Social Services Administration staff with recommendations on an appropriate placement, while preserving the confidentiality requirements of state and federal law.
4. The task force shall consist of the following members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor:
  - (a.) One (1) pediatrician;
  - (b.) One (1) family court judge recommended by the chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court;
  - (c.) One (1) juvenile court judge;
  - (d.) One (1) attorney licensed to practice law in Indiana who is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association's Committee on Civil Rights for children;
  - (e.) One (1) representative of a law enforcement agency;
  - (f.) One (1) guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate;
  - (g.) One (1) prosecuting attorney or a deputy prosecuting attorney;
  - (h.) One (1) private agency children's services caseworker;

- (i.) One (1) public agency children's services children's services caseworker;
  - (j.) One (1) psychologist who works with abused and neglected children;
  - (k.) One (1) medical social worker; and
  - (l.) The director of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of the Family and Children or the director's designee.
- 5. The chairman and vice-chairman shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor.
  - 6. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children shall staff the task force and provide administrative support.
  - 7. Members of the task force are not entitled to a minimum salary per diem or reimbursement of expenses for service on the task force.
  - 8. A majority of the members appointed to the task force shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative votes of a majority of the members appointed to the commission are required for the task force to make recommendations on any measure.

The task force may delegate to any one or more of its members or agents such powers and duties as it may deem proper.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I Joseph E. Kernan,** have herewith set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana on this 11th day of February, 2004.



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Joseph E. Kernan  
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST: Todd Rokita  
Secretary of State